

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06953 030927Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /032 W
-----005901 031149Z /72

R 030513Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1354

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6953

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, IN
SUBJECT: NEW INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NIGERIA

REF: LAGOS 5437

1. EMBASSY FILES CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON
MRS. K. RUKMINI MENON, INDIA'S NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER TO
NIGERIA.

2. BORN SEPTEMBER 6, 1922, MRS. MENON JOINED THE INDIAN
FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1951, BEFORE HER MARRIAGE. SHE HAS
HELD THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: SECOND SECRETARY/FIRST
SECRETARY IN COLOMBO (1954-56); UNDER SECRETARY/DEPUTY
SECRETARY IN THE MINEXAFF IN NEW DELHI (1957-61); FIRST
SECRETARY IN KUALA LUMPUR (1962-64); FIRST SECRETARY IN
CANBERRA (1965-66); DIRECTOR IN THE EUROPE DIVISION OF
MINEXAFF IN NEW DELHI (1966-67); ATTENDED THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE COLLEGE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (1968-69);
JOINT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF THE AMERICAS DIVISION
OF MINEXAFF IN NEW DELHI (1970-72); AMBASSADOR TO
DENMARK (1972-75); AND AMBASSADOR TO ITALY (1976-78).

3. MRS. MENON, THE SECOND FEMALE INDIAN CAREER
DIPLOMAT TO REACH AMBASSADORIAL RANK, IS FROM THE SOUTH
INDIAN STATE OF KERALA. SHE STUDIED AT MADRAS
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UNIVERSITY. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO DEALT WITH HER AT THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FOUND THAT SHE COULD BE
PROFESSIONAL AND CHARMING AS THE OCCASION DEMANDED.
SHE COULD ALSO BE EMOTIONAL, NATIONALISTIC AND
HYPERSENSITIVE, PARTICULARLY WHEN INDIA WAS CRITICIZED.
SHE WAS NOT THOUGHT TO EXERCISE MUCH INFLUENCE ON
POLICY WHEN SERVING ON THE AMERICAS DESK.

4. IN 1970 MRS. MENON ACCOMPANIED HER HUSBAND WHEN
HE WENT TO THE US ON SABBATICAL.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE06953
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-0528
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780597/aaaadfem.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0a3323a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LAGOS 5437
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2804938
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NIGERIA
TAGS: PINR, IN, NI, (MENON, K RUKMINI)
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0a3323a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014